

**MIDTERMS SCKWRK 1201 (69)
CONFLICT PARADIGM**

The conflict paradigm views society as a struggle for limited resources, highlighting inequalities based on race, class, gender, etc., and sees power imbalances as the root of problems, not individuals. Instead of focusing on individual deficits, this macro-level perspective pushes social workers to challenge oppressive structures, advocate for social justice, empower marginalized groups, and work towards systemic change through activism, organizing, and policy reform to transform institutions that maintain inequality

BACKGROUND OF CONFLICT THEORY

Conflict theory, as associated with Karl Marx, is a social theory that posits that society is in a state of perpetual conflict because of competition for limited resources.

Conflict theory holds that social order is maintained by domination and power, rather than by consensus and conformity. According to conflict theory, those with wealth and power try to hold on to it by any means possible, chiefly by suppressing the poor and powerless. A basic premise of conflict theory is that individuals and groups within society will work to try to maximize their own wealth and power.

PROPONENTS

Karl Marx (1818-1883)

- Often considered the "father" of social conflict theory, the German philosopher and sociologist Karl Marx viewed society as being in a perpetual state of conflict due to competition for limited economic resources.
- He argued that society is fundamentally divided into two main classes: the bourgeoisie (the wealthy owners of the means of production) and the proletariat (the working class)

Max Weber (1864-1920)

- Max Weber agreed with Marx that economic inequality causes social conflict, but he expanded the idea by explaining social stratification through three connected dimensions: class (economic dimension), status (social dimension), and power (political dimension)

W.E.B. Du Bois (1868-1963)

- Du Bois applied the conflict perspective to the study of race and racism in the United States. He theorized that the racial inequality between white people and people of color had dynamics similar to the class conflicts described by Marx.

C. Wright Mills (1916-1962)

- Mills has been called the founder of modern conflict theory. In the 1950s, he introduced the concept of the "power elite," arguing that a small, interconnected group of individuals in the government, military, and corporations hold the majority of power in society, and their interests often conflict with those of the general public

KEY CONCEPTS

KARL MARX'S, CONFLICT THEORY FOCUSES ON CLASS STRUGGLE BETWEEN TWO MAIN GROUPS IN SOCIETY

1. BOURGEOISIE (THE HAVES) -This is the wealthy, ruling classes that owns the means of production, such as factories, land and capital.
2. PROLETARIAT (HAVES-NOTS) - This is the working class, or the laborers who must sell their labor to the bourgeoisie in return for wages

EXAMPLE:

Labor Exploitation of Workers

- Employers (power holder) vs Workers (less power)

Urban Poor and Housing Demolition

- Government/Private developers vs informal settlers

FOCUS OF CONFLICT THEORY

The main focus of conflict theory is on competition for limited resources (wealth, power, status) viewing society as groups in constant struggle with the powerful maintaining dominance by oppressing the less powerful, leading to inequality and social change rather than stability.

Conflict Theory views social and economic institutions as tools in the struggle among groups or classes, used to maintain inequality and the dominance of the ruling classes

RELATION OF CONFLICT THEORY & SOCIAL WORK PROFESSION

Helps social workers understand that social problems come from inequality, power imbalance, and unfair systems, not from individual weakness. It shows that poverty, discrimination, and oppression exist because some groups control resources and power while others are marginalized.

- Advocate for social justice and fair policies
- Empower marginalized and oppressed groups
- Work to change unjust systems and structures

CONCLUSION

The conflict paradigm helps us understand that many social problems are not caused by individual failure, but by unequal power, oppression, and unfair distribution of resources in society. It reveals how dominant groups maintain control while marginalized groups

experience poverty, discrimination, and injustice.

FUNCTIONALIST PARADIGM

HISTORICAL CONTEXT

The **Functionalist Paradigm** emerged in the late **19th and early 20th centuries** during industrialization and urbanization. Durkheim studied social cohesion, while Parsons and Merton further developed functionalist theory in the mid-20th century.

PROPONENTS

Emile Durkheim (1858–1917)

- French sociologist and one of the founders of sociology
- Focused on social cohesion and collective conscience
- Emphasized shared norms, values, and institutions in maintaining social order and stability.

Talcott Parsons (1902–1979)

- An American sociologist who developed structural functionalism
- Viewed society as a system of interdependent parts
- Highlighted the role of institutions (family, education, government) in maintaining equilibrium.

Robert K. Merton (1910–2003)

- An American sociologist who refined functionalist theory
- Introduced manifest functions (intended) and latent functions (unintended).
- Explained how social structures can have both positive and negative consequences.

DEFINITION

- The **Functionalist Paradigm** views society as a system of interconnected parts that work together to maintain stability and order. Social institutions, such as family, education, and religion, each perform functions that contribute to society's cohesion.

ROLES & FUNCTIONS

The **Functionalist Paradigm** explains why social institutions exist and their contributions to society's stability.

- Helps maintain social harmony and order.
- Provides a framework to analyze social stability
- Explains the consequences of social structures.

PRINCIPLES

- Society is a system of interrelated parts.
- Each part has a function that contributes to the whole.
- Institutions maintain order, cohesion, and stability.
- Change occurs gradually to preserve equilibrium.

CRITIQUES

The **Functionalist Paradigm** has been criticized for focusing too much on social stability while neglecting issues of inequality and power. It may also justify existing social hierarchies and has difficulty explaining rapid social change and social conflict.

- Emphasizes consensus over disagreement

- Assumes social institutions generally work for the common good
- Downplays the role of conflict in social change

RELEVANCE TO SOCIAL WORK

The **Functionalist Paradigm** helps social workers understand how social institutions work together to maintain social stability and meet people's needs. It is useful in identifying social problems that arise when institutions fail to perform their functions.

- Helps assess the roles of family, education, health, and welfare systems
- Identifies institutional dysfunctions causing social problems
- Guides interventions aimed at restoring social functioning

CONCLUSION

The Functionalist Paradigm views society as a system of interconnected institutions that work together to maintain stability and order. By highlighting the roles that various institutions play, the functionalist approach helps us appreciate the balance and interdependence necessary for a functioning society.

SYMBOLIC INTERACTIONISM

Historical Context

Symbolic Interactionism emerged in the early **20th century**, mainly in American sociology at the University of Chicago. **Mead's lectures laid the foundation**, while his students, including Blumer, formalized the perspective and popularized it in the 1930s and 1940s.

PROPONENTS

George Herbert Mead (1863–1931)

- An American philosopher and sociologist is considered the intellectual founder of symbolic interactionism. He emphasized that the self and mind develop through social interaction and the use of symbols.
- Developed the concepts of **"I" and "Me"** to explain the self
- Highlighted the importance of gestures and communication in forming social reality

Herbert Blumer (1900–1987)

- Herbert Blumer, a student of Mead, formalized symbolic interactionism and coined the term in 1937. He outlined its three core principles, explaining how meanings arise from interaction and can change through interpretation.
- Coined the term **"symbolic interactionism"**
- **Formulated three core principles** of the perspective
- Helped **establish symbolic interactionism as a formal sociological theory**

Erving Goffman (1922–1982)

- Erving Goffman was a Canadian sociologist who applied symbolic interactionist ideas to everyday life. He developed dramaturgical analysis, viewing life as a

stage where people perform roles and manage impressions.

- Focused on impression management and face-to-face interactions
- Demonstrated how social reality is constructed in daily interactions

Symbolic Interactionism

Symbolic Interactionism focuses on how individuals create meaning through social interaction. It emphasizes that people act based on the meanings things have for them, and these meanings are formed and modified through communication and everyday interactions.

- Meaning is socially constructed
- Interaction shapes behavior
- Symbols such as language and gestures are central

Roles, Functions, and Importance

Symbolic Interaction explains how social reality is created through everyday interactions and shared meanings. It helps us understand how people develop their identity and self-concept, how communication shapes behavior, and how society is built from the interactions of individuals.

- Helps explain identity and self-concept
- Useful for understanding communication and social behavior
- Shows how society is shaped from the bottom up

Principles

The Symbolic Interaction perspective explains that people do not respond directly to reality, but to the meanings they assign to people, objects, and situations through social interaction.

- People act based on the meanings things have for them
- Meanings develop through interaction with others
- Meanings are interpreted and can change over time

Relevance

Symbolic Interactionism focuses on how individuals create meaning through symbols and interactions, helping practitioners understand clients' subjective realities, challenge negative labels, and improve communication.

- Teaches social workers to listen and observe.
- Emphasizes the importance of communication, language, and symbols.
- Build empathy and develop interventions that are meaningful to the client's life

CRITIQUES

Despite its strengths in explaining how individuals create meaning through social interaction, Symbolic Interactionism has been criticized for its limited scope. By focusing mainly on small-scale, face-to-face interactions, it often overlooks larger social structures, power dynamics, and systemic inequalities. This makes it less effective for understanding institutions, social hierarchies, and broad societal change.

- Focuses primarily on micro-level interactions rather than macro-level structures
- Tends to understate issues of structural inequality and social stratification

- Provides a limited explanation of institutional power and large-scale social change

CONCLUSION:

Symbolic Interactionism explains that people create meaning through their everyday interactions, and these meanings shape how they think, act, and relate to others. Formed through communication and shared understanding by studying how people interpret the world and interact with one another, this helps social workers improve communication and create support systems that reflect the real experiences of individuals

SOCIAL PROCESSES AND DERIVED SOCIAL PROCESSES

The concept of social process refers to some of the general and recurrent forms that social interaction may take. The interaction or mutual activity is the essence of social life. Interaction between individuals and groups occurs in the form of a social process. Social processes refer to forms of social interaction that occur again and again.

SOCIAL PROCESSES

Social Processes are how individuals and groups interact, adjust, and readjust, and establish relationships and patterns of behavior, which are again modified through social interactions.

SOCIAL INTERACTION

Social interactions are reciprocal relationships that not only influence the interacting individuals but also the quality of relationships.

Eldredge and Merrill say, "*Social interaction is thus the general process whereby two or more persons are in meaningful contact- as a result of which their behaviour is modified, however, slightly*".

TYPES OF SOCIAL PROCESSES

1. COOPERATION

It is a form of social process in which two or more individuals or groups work together to achieve common goals. **Cooperation** is a form of social interaction in which all participants benefit by attaining their goals.

TYPES OF COOPERATION:

FORMAL COOPERATION

- Organized, planned collaboration with rules, roles, and responsibilities.

INFORMAL COOPERATION

- **Unplanned** or **spontaneous** collaboration that arises naturally between individuals or groups.

SYMBOLIC COOPERATION

- It is a condition in which people live together peacefully, helping and relying on one another.

2. COMPETITION

It occurs whenever there is an **insufficient supply of anything that human beings desire**, insufficient in the sense that not all can have as much of it as they wish.

TYPES OF COMPETITION:

PERSONAL COMPETITION

- Competition that involves individuals directly striving against one another for a goal, recognition, or advantage.

IMPERSONAL COMPETITION

- Competition that is indirect and not personal, often for resources, recognition, or status, without confrontation.

3. CONFLICT

Social conflict occurs when individuals or groups have opposing goals or values, leading to tension, power struggles, and negative feelings.

TYPES OF CONFLICT:

- **Interpersonal Conflict** (between individuals)
- **Intrapersonal Conflict** (within a person)
- **Intergroup Conflict** (between groups)
- **Intragroup Conflict** (within a group)
- **Organizational Conflict** (within institutions)
- **Structural Conflict** (macro-level inequalities)
- **Cultural Conflict** (clash of values/beliefs)

DERIVED SOCIAL PROCESSES

Derived Social Processes are complex and organized social interactions that develop from basic social processes such as Competition, Cooperation, and Conflict.

TYPES OF DERIVED SOCIAL PROCESSES:

1. ACCOMODATION

It is a process of getting along in spite of differences. According to Horton and Hunt, Accommodation is a process of developing temporary working agreements between conflicting individuals and groups.

FORMS OF ACCOMODATION:

COMPROMISE

- Both parties give up something to reach a mutual agreement.

TOLERATION

- People accept each other's differences without conflict, even if they disagree.

MEDIATION

- A neutral third party helps conflicting sides communicate and reach an agreement.

ARBITRATION

- A third party hears both sides and issues a binding decision that must be accepted.

TRUCE

- A temporary stop to conflict or fighting, often to allow negotiation or peace efforts.

2. ASSIMILATION

It refers to the **blending of cultural elements** in which individuals or groups **adopt the traits, beliefs, attitudes**, and **values** of another culture through ongoing, friendly, and close interaction.

TYPES OF ASSIMILATION:

CULTURAL ASSIMILATION

- It is a process in which individuals or groups from different ethnic backgrounds gradually adopt the customs, values, language, and practices of the dominant culture in a society.

STRUCTURAL ASSIMILATION

- Structural assimilation happens when individuals or groups become integrated into the social institutions of the dominant society. This includes participation in education, employment, politics, and social organizations.

3. ACCULTURATION

Acculturation is the process by which individuals or groups learn and adopt certain cultural traits of another culture while still maintaining their original culture.

4. AMALGAMATION

Amalgamation is the process by which two or more cultures or groups combine to form a new culture or social group. It often involves intermarriage and close social interaction.

CONCLUSION:

In simple terms, social processes serve as the basic interactions—such as cooperation, competition, and conflict—while derived processes are the more complex outcomes formed from them, including accommodation, assimilation, acculturation, and amalgamation. Society constantly shifts between forces that bring people together and those that create division, using both basic and developed processes to adjust, evolve, and handle tensions while establishing new forms of social order.

The Socio-Cultural System: Philippine Education and Value Systems

INTRODUCTION

The Philippine socio-cultural system refers to the interconnected practices, traditions, institutions, and values that shape Filipino society and its way of life. Understanding these systems helps explain the societal behaviors, aspirations, and structures in the Philippines.

The Philippine EDUCATION System

HISTORY BACKGROUND

PRE COLONIAL TIMES

- Before the Spanish arrived in 1521, there was little formal education in the Philippines. Fathers taught their sons how to obtain food, while mothers taught their daughters how to do household chores.

SPANISH PERIOD

- The curriculum at the time involved the study of Christian doctrine, Spanish language and history, mathematics, agriculture, geography, etiquette, and singing; girls were also taught sewing. However, this privilege was only given to mestizos (mixed Spanish/Filipino), and natives were excluded from such institutions.

AMERICAN PERIOD

- The Americans took over the Philippines after the end of the war. English was adopted as the primary language of education, and schools became more secularized. A centralized public school system was established in 1901, with 1,000 teachers brought over from the USA to make up for a shortage of teachers at home. Education from age seven and up became

compulsory, and school supplies were provided to students for free.

JAPANESE PERIOD

- When the Japanese occupied the Philippines in 1942 during the Second World War, they attempted to discourage the use of English and adopt Japanese as the medium of education. However, school enrolment was low, as families felt that their children were safer at home during this time. The Japanese also established the Department of Instruction, which would later become the Department of Education in 1947.

MODERN TIMES

- Today's education system in the Philippines most closely resembles the American model. English remains the primary medium of instruction, although bilingual teaching of maths, science and literature (in English and Tagalog) was introduced under Ferdinand Marcos in 1974.

DIFFERENT LEVELS OF THE PHILIPPINE EDUCATION

The pre-university education system in the Philippines is the K to 12 Program which covers 13 years of education from kindergarten to Grade 12. Introduced from 2011 to 2017, to bring the Philippines education system in line with the rest of the world. Previously, the Philippines had a 10-year basic education program, the last country in Asia to do so.

KINDERGARTEN AND ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

- Central to the K-12 reforms was the provision of one year of kindergarten schooling for every child in the Philippines, which covers grades 1-6.

JUNIOR AND SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL

- **Junior High School** covers grades 7-10. **Senior High School** (SHS) covers grades 11-12 and was introduced in 2016 as part of the K to 12 program. As well as following the core curriculum, students will choose to specialize in one of four tracks: Academic (including ABM, STEM, HUMSS, etc.), Technical-Vocational-Livelihood (including TESDA courses in cookery and welding), Sports, and Arts & Design.

TERTIARY LEVEL

- Colleges are classified as tertiary institutions that typically offer a handful of professional or specialized courses, such as Computing, Maritime Studies, or Nursing. Universities, by definition, must offer at least six four-year undergraduate courses, which must include Basic Science, Mathematics, Liberal Arts, and Social Sciences. Colleges and universities may be public or private: the latter may be either religion-based or secular.

ALS (ALTERNATIVE LEARNING SYSTEM)

- ALS stands for Alternative Learning System. It is a parallel education system in the Philippines designed for out-of-school youth and adults who were unable to complete formal education. ALS provides flexible, modular, and community-based learning to help learners acquire basic and functional literacy skills equivalent to formal schooling.

TVET (TECHNICAL AND VOCATIONAL EDUCATION TRAINING)

- It refers to education and training programs that focus on equipping individuals with practical skills, technical knowledge, and hands-on experience needed for specific trades, occupations, or industries. TVET programs can cover fields such as engineering, information technology, healthcare, hospitality, agriculture, and many more.

MATATAG CURRICULUM

- The MATATAG curriculum was launched on August 10, 2023, as a program by the Department of Education (DepEd) that aims to improve teaching and learning in the Philippines. It focuses on developing students' skills and knowledge in reading, math, and life skills. The curriculum also aims to prepare students for the world of work and life.
- The curriculum is being implemented in phases, starting with Kindergarten, Grades 1, 4, and 7 in the 2024-2025 school year. The curriculum is intended to cover kindergarten through 10th grade. It also aims to reduce academic pressure, lighten teachers' workloads, and strengthen students' abilities to meet international standards.

THREE AGENCIES THAT HANDLE THE BASIC EDUCATION SYSTEM

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION (DepEd)

- Oversees basic education. It supervises all elementary and secondary education institutions, including alternative learning systems, both public and private, and provides for the establishment and maintenance of a comprehensive, adequate, and integrated system of basic education aligned with the goals of national development

COMMISSION ON HIGHER EDUCATION (CHED)

- Manages tertiary and graduate education. CHED's role is to supervise and coordinate higher education institutions in the Philippines, as well as to develop and implement tertiary education policies. The commission is assigned with coming up with policies and programs which will ensure the improvement of constant higher education in the Philippines.

TECHNICAL EDUCATION AND SKILLS DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY (TESDA)

- Oversees technical-vocational courses and middle education. Approve skills standards and tests; Develop an accreditation system for institutions involved in middle - level manpower development; Fund programs and projects for technical education and skills development; and assist trainers' training programs.

PHILIPPINE EDUCATIONAL TRENDS

ONLINE LEARNING - also known as distance education, refers to the delivery of educational content and instruction through the internet. It allows students to take courses and earn degrees remotely, without the need to be physically present on campus.

DISTANCE LEARNING - refers to any education provided without the teacher and students being physically present together. In the past, high schools and universities offered correspondence courses as a method of distance learning.

BLENDED LEARNING - an approach to education that combines online educational materials and opportunities for interaction online with a physical place-based classroom method.

PHILIPPINE EDUCATIONAL REALITIES

LACK OF INFRASTRUCTURE

- Has negative impact on student outcomes. Studies have shown that damage to educational facilities, such as classrooms, libraries, and toilets, can lead to lower learning outcomes and higher rates of grade repetition.

INEXPERIENCED / UNDERPAID EDUCATORS

- When teachers fail to meet students' needs, it can have a long-lasting negative impact on their academic performance. Poor teaching can result in a lack of motivation, leading to bad study habits and poor grades.

THE DECLINE IN LITERACY COMPREHENSION

- The low literacy rate in the Philippines can be attributed to several factors. These include a lack of reading elements, inclusion of learners-at-risk, lack of reading enthusiasm, teacher incompetence, shortage in reading materials and facilities, parental involvement, and students' health.

HIGH RATES OF DROPOUTS

- One of the most common reasons students drop out of school is personal problems. These can include health issues, family responsibilities, pregnancy, substance abuse, mental health challenges, or trauma.

EDUCATIONAL LAWS

R.A. NO. 10931 - This is also known as the Universal Access to Quality Tertiary Education. This provides underprivileged Filipinostudents the opportunity to pursue college degrees through free tuition and exemption of other fees from universities and colleges.

R.A. NO. 11510-11510 - otherwise known as the Alternative Learning System Act, other marginalized sectors who are unable to participate in informal schooling and have not completed basic education. These rules shall also apply to ALS learners, ALS program completers, and ALS graduates.

THE PHILIPPINE VALUE SYSTEM

Filipino Core Values:

PAKIKIPAGKAPWA TAO

- This value highlights the importance of recognizing and respecting others as equals. It fosters empathy,

compassion, and strong interpersonal relationships. forming the foundation of Filipino social harmony.

BAYANIHAN

- Bayanihan refers to the spirit of communal cooperation and unity. Traditionally, it involved neighbors helping a family physically move their house from one location to another. Today, it's about helping others in need without expecting anything in return, whether it's organizing relief efforts during natural disasters or simply lending a hand to a friend or neighbor.

UTANG NA LOOB

- A deep sense of gratitude for acts of kindness, expressed through sincere appreciation and a commitment to reciprocate goodwill. This value fosters lasting relationships and a cycle of generosity, where kindness is not just acknowledged but paid forward to others.

HIYA

- A cultural sense of propriety and shame encourages individuals to maintain moral and ethical conduct by aligning their actions with societal expectations.
- It acts as a social regulator, fostering respect for tradition and the community. The feeling of shame helps deter behavior that could bring dishonor, motivating individuals to act with integrity and consideration for others.

RESPECT FOR ELDERS

- Is ingrained in Filipino society. Younger people often use honorifics like "**po**" and "**opo**" when speaking to elders, which show politeness.
- The "**mano po**" gesture, where younger people take the hand of an elder and press it to their forehead, is a sign of deep respect.

HOSPITALITY

- Filipinos are globally renowned for their warmth and generosity, particularly toward guests. Whether it's a simple meal or a grand celebration, Filipinos take pride in making others feel welcome, often going above and beyond to ensure their guests are comfortable, even if it means making personal sacrifices.

CHEERFUL

- Filipinos are known for their "resilience" and ability to maintain a positive attitude even in difficult situations. Despite hardships, they tend to smile, laugh, and find joy in simple things. This sunny disposition is visible in their everyday interactions and celebrations.

Influences on the values system

FAMILY

- The core source of moral and social values is teaching respect, responsibility, and empathy. It shapes an individual's character and guides their actions and relationships throughout life.

RELIGION

- Including Catholicism and other faiths shapes ethical and cultural norms by providing moral guidance and

influencing behaviors, fostering values like compassion, justice, and community.

Colonial and indigenous heritage

- Colonial and Indigenous heritage is a mix of pre-colonial traditions and colonial influences, combining native practices with those introduced during colonization. This blend shapes cultural identities and societal structures, creating unique legacies and experiences.

CONCLUSION:

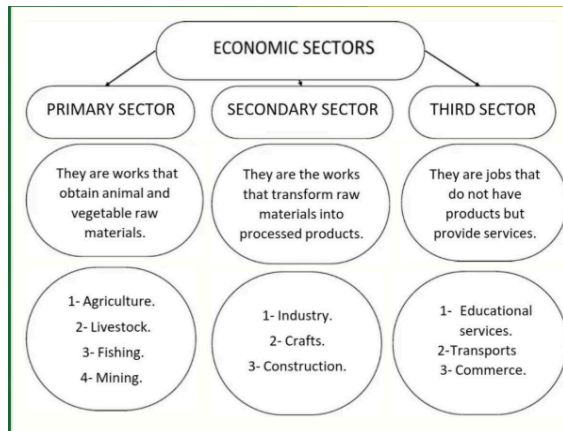
Overall, the Philippine education system reflects the country's culture, history, and values, showing how Filipino learning has evolved from pre-colonial times to the modern era. Programs like K to 12, senior high school tracks, tertiary education, ALS, and TVET were created to give students more opportunities, practical skills, and better preparation for real-life and work. Agencies such as DepEd, CHED, and TESDA help guide and improve the quality of education, even as challenges like limited facilities and the need for more trained teachers remain. At the same time, core Filipino values—such as pakikipagkapwa-tao, bayanihan, utang na loob, respect for elders, and hospitality—continue to shape how students learn and interact, helping keep society united and grounded despite ongoing changes.

THE PHILIPPINE ECONOMY: AGRARIAN ISSUE & ECONOMIC IMPERIALISM

Philippine Economy: The Philippine Economy likely grew by **4.8 to five percent last year**, below the government's **5.5 to 6.5 percent growth target for 2025**, according to **Department of Economy, Planning and Development (DEPDev)** Secretary Arsenio Balisacan. While the country is likely to miss its 5.5 to 6.5 percent growth target for 2025, the Philippines remains one of the fastest-growing economies in Asia.

Gross Domestic Product (GDP) Gross domestic product (GDP) is the total monetary or market value of the finished goods and services produced within a country's borders in a specific period. The Philippines has a GDP that ranks among the top in Southeast Asia. The GDP growth has been resilient, and the country has experienced economic expansion for many years

GDP - total value of goods produced within the country
GNP - the total value of goods made by Filipinos despite their location



Agrarian Issue: Agriculture in the Philippines faces mounting challenges that have significant implications for food security, rural livelihoods, and the nation's economic stability as a whole. The agricultural sector, despite being essential and employing nearly a quarter of the Filipino workforce, with a notable contribution to the GDP, is continually hindered by persistent, evolving problems. From vulnerability to climate change and intensifying natural disasters, to land fragmentation, low productivity, and infrastructure gaps, these problems in agriculture in the Philippines are complex and multi-dimensional.

CAUSES OF AGRARIAN ISSUE

1. CLIMATE CHANGE & EXTREME WEATHER EVENTS:

Erratic rainfall, rising temperatures, and stronger typhoons are reducing rice and corn yields, threatening food security and farmer incomes. Climate-related disasters can wipe out entire harvests, especially in areas with limited capacity to adapt.

2. Land Fragmentation and Tenure Insecurity

Most Filipino farms are small and fragmented, averaging about 2 hectares, and many farmers lack secure land ownership or long-term tenure, limiting productivity and investment.

3. LOW PRODUCTIVITY AND MECHANIZATION BARRIERS

Farm productivity remains 30–40% lower than leading Asian countries due to dependence on manual farming, limited mechanization, outdated irrigation and post-harvest facilities, and high input costs.

4. POOR RURAL INFRASTRUCTURE AND HIGH POST-HARVEST LOSSES

High costs, limited training, understaffed extension services, and a lack of localized data slow the adoption of modern and digital farming technologies.

5. LAG IN TECHNOLOGY ADOPTION AND EXTENSION SERVICES

High costs, limited training, understaffed extension services, and lack of localized data slow the adoption of modern and digital farming technologies.

6. Aging Farming Population and Youth Outmigration

With the average farmer nearing 58 years old, young people are leaving agriculture, reducing labor supply, slowing innovation, and threatening long-term food security.

7. HIGH INPUT COSTS AND LIMITED ACCESS TO FINANCING

Rising prices of seeds, fertilizers, fuel, and limited access to affordable credit trap small farmers in low profitability.

AGRARIAN REFORM

Essential Components:

- **Reform** is change, a process, or an act to achieve improvements in any current state or quality.
- **Land Reforms** is a measure undertaken to improve the relationship between the tillers and the land owner concerning the former's rights and privileges in the land they are cultivating.
- **Agrarian Reform** pursues a broader improvement, not only in land ownership, but also in the agrarian system processes as a whole.
 - Either government-initiated or government-backed.

AGRARIAN REFORM

- Agrarian reform is a package of support services, price regulations, and government assistance, and matters related to legal aid, consultation, counseling, and building of infrastructures that would benefit the farmers, among others.

ASPECT OF AGRARIAN REFORM

ECONOMIC - The agricultural development is before industrial development and progress. Reforms are needed to promote and intensify agricultural productivity, which would contribute significantly to overall economic growth and development.

SOCIO-CULTURAL - Agrarian reform leads to self-reliance, self-esteem, dignity, and improved quality of life for the beneficiaries.

RELIGIOUS - Agrarian reform is solidly grounded in both the Old and New Testaments and Social Teachings.

MORAL - Sound reason sees the need for just and equitable distribution of agricultural lands to landless farmers in line with the essence of social justice.

- Rooted in social justice, which is a combination of general justice and distributive justice.

LEGAL - Agrarian reform is mandated by the 1987 Constitution.

POLITICAL - Agrarian reform measures the extent of willingness (known as political will) of the national leadership to implement the law regardless of those affected.

Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Law (CARL)

Philippine Republic Act No. 6657, signed by **President Corazon C. Aquino** on **June 10, 1988**. It is responsible for the implementation of the Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Law (CARL) in the Philippines. The law focused on Industrialization in the Philippines, together with social justice.

- This had been done to expand the functional arms of the law. Apart from land reform, the Department of Agrarian Reform began to supervise other allied activities to improve the economic and social status of the beneficiaries of land reform in the Philippines.

- **DAR:** Conducts surveys in settlements in areas. It undertakes land acquisition, distribution, and orchestrates the delivery and land management studies. The DAR supports farmer beneficiaries and promotes the development of viable agrarian reform communities

CARL Key Points Summary:

Redistribution of land for farmers, to see to the welfare of the landless farmers and farmworkers, and to establish the owner-cultivatorship of economic-size as the basis of Philippine agriculture.

Land owners are given Just Compensation, a compensation based on the land's value factored by Market Value, Losses and Damages, Timely Payment, and Legal Processes

Beneficiaries of the Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Law (CARL)

Landless farmers and farmworkers who till agricultural lands, including tenants, sharecroppers, regular and seasonal workers, and actual tillers of public lands, with the goal of giving them ownership or a just share of the land they work, along with support services to improve their economic status.

WHO QUALIFIES?

- Landless Farmers & Farmworkers
- Agricultural Lessees & Share Tenant
- Regular & Seasonal Farmworkers
- Actual Tillers/Occupants
- Cooperatives/Associations
- Rural Women

New Agrarian Emancipation Act, Republic Act No. 11953

Condoned all principal loans, unpaid amortizations, and interests for **Agrarian Reform Beneficiaries (ARBs)** and exempts them from payment of estate tax on agricultural lands awarded under the Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Program. Emancipation means to free a person from a restraint, application 3 years after the act was signed. Landowners have their right to retain the land not exceeding 5 hectares however it still depends on the criteria of **PARC (Philippine Agrarian Reform Council)**.

Definition of Agrarian Reform Beneficiaries (ARBs)

Includes farmers/farmworkers granted lands under Presidential Decree No. 27, RA 6657 (CARL), and RA 9700.

Covers those who have outstanding loan balances payable to LBP and private landowners at the time the Act takes effect.

IMPLICATIONS OF AGRARIAN REFORM

1. Socio-economic

- Incentive to produce more.
- More employment.
- Higher farm yields.
- Larger income.
- Expanded domestic market.
- Greater industrial production.
- National development and dynamic democracy.
- Heightened quality of life

2. Socio-political

- Enhanced people's participation
- People empowerment.
- Recognition of human dignity.
- More principled and disciplined people.
- More political awareness and involvement.
- Responsive bureaucracy.
- Broad-based democracy.
- National development and dynamic democracy.
- Heightened quality of life

3. Socio-cultural

- Recognition of human dignity.
- Heightened consciousness and social awareness.
- Enhanced people's participation.
- More principled and disciplined people.
- Higher education.
- Improved health condition.
- Increased awareness of environmental conservation.
- National development and dynamic democracy.
- Heightened quality of life

ECONOMIC IMPERIALISM

Economic Imperialism can be defined as the act of a powerful state taking control of another territory and placing its people under its rule. It involves violating a people's right to political independence and self-determination. Those who are subjected to imperialism often lack the political power to resist or oppose the controlling state. This control may be direct or indirect and usually results in the unequal treatment of the local population compared to the ruling state's own citizens over a long period of time.

How Economic Imperialism Manifests in the Philippine Context:

Influence on policies - This influence can result in policies that prioritize the interests of foreign investors over local development and may not adequately address the needs of the local population. It could lead to a regulatory environment that is more favorable to external entities. Imperialist structures often co-opt local elites, making bowing to foreign interests profitable and a tool for political survival, fostering corruption.

Labor Export & Brain Drain - The need for foreign currency pushes Filipinos to work abroad, causing significant "brain drain" and relying on remittances rather than building local capacity.

Resource Exploitation - Foreign entities control key sectors like mining, wholesale, and retail, extracting wealth while local populations see limited benefit.

Stunted Industrialization - Policies, like the 1946 Philippine Trade Act, flooded the market with foreign goods, hindering local manufacturing and creating import dependency.

Perpetuated Inequality & Poverty - The system benefits a few powerful local elites (comprador bourgeoisie, bureaucrat capitalists) and foreign monopolies, widening the gap between rich and poor, especially in rural areas.

Cultural & Social Shifts - Imposed economic systems influence culture, sometimes promoting migration and commodifying

aspects of life, impacting national identity and local production for subsistence.

Dependency & Underdevelopment - The Philippines became integrated into global production chains, serving as a source of cheap labor and raw materials (like cash crops) for imperial powers, rather than developing its own diverse industries, leading to persistent underdevelopment.

Summary of main points:

The Philippine economy continues to grow, but this growth has not equally benefited the agricultural sector. Agriculture remains vital to food security and employment, yet farmers face challenges such as climate change, land fragmentation, low productivity, and high input costs. Government efforts like the Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Law (CARL) and the New Agrarian Emancipation Act aim to address land inequality and farmer welfare, but limitations in implementation remain. Economic Imperialism, particularly in its economic form, has shaped Philippine development through foreign policy influence, labor export, resource exploitation, and dependency on imports and remittances. These factors contribute to persistent rural poverty and inequality despite overall economic progress.

Key insights learned

One key insight is that economic growth alone does not guarantee social justice or rural development. Despite economic expansion, many Filipino farmers remain poor due to unequal land ownership, limited access to resources, and structural barriers rooted in historical and modern forms of imperialism. Agrarian reform laws have helped address land inequality, but implementation gaps and external economic pressures continue to limit their effectiveness. Imperialism, in its economic form, has reinforced dependency, weakened local industries, and deepened inequality, especially in rural and agricultural communities.

Final thoughts or implications to social work

Social workers must recognize agrarian issues as structural social problems, not merely economic concerns. Advocacy for farmers' rights, secure land tenure, and access to resources is essential. Social workers can help empower rural communities through education, organization, and participation in policy processes. Addressing the impacts of imperialism requires promoting self-reliance, local development, and social justice. A people-centered approach is necessary to achieve inclusive and sustainable economic development.

THE POLITICAL AGENDA

- GRAFT, CORRUPTION, AND BUREAUCRACY
- DECENTRALIZATION
- NEPOTISM
- POLITICAL DYNASTY

PURPOSE

The purpose of this report is to explain the concept of political agenda and how it influences government decisions and public policies. It also aims to identify the causes and effects of corruption and graft and their impact on society, as well as analyze how bureaucracy affects efficiency, accountability, and public service delivery. Furthermore, this report discusses

decentralization and its role in transferring power from the national government to local government units. Lastly, it examines issues such as nepotism and political dynasties, and how these practices can undermine fairness, merit, and democratic participation.

THE POLITICAL AGENDA

The political agenda is defined as the set of issues that are the subject of decision-making and debate within a political system at a given time, encompassing both the systemic agenda, which includes issues discussed in society, and the institutional agenda, which pertains to issues being discussed in specific government institutions.

GRAFT, CORRUPTION, & BUREAUCRACY

GRAFT

- It refers to the unscrupulous use of a public official's authority for personal gain.

CORRUPTION

- Encompasses various dishonest practices by those in power, such as bribery and embezzlement.

TYPES OF CORRUPTION:

1. PETTY CORRUPTION

- Involves small-scale dishonest acts by individuals or low level official, like taking bribes or giving special treatment for personal gain.

example:

- FIXER
- TRAFFIC BRIBERY
- PADULAS
- RADE TAPE
- UNDER-THE-TABLE

2. GRAND CORRUPTION

- Involves high-level individuals using their power for significant personal gain, often through embezzlement, manipulation of laws, or unfair distribution of resources.

example:

- PORK BARREL SCAM
- CONFIDENTIAL FUNDS
- PHARMALLY SCANDAL
- GHOST PROJECT

LAW AGAINST GRAFT & CORRUPTION

Republic Act No. 3019 (RA 3019) — Anti-Graft and Corrupt Practices Act

- The law defines and penalizes corrupt acts by public officials, **such as** receiving gifts, causing undue injury, or giving unwarranted benefits.

BUREAUCRACY

- System of government or management characterized by hierarchical structure, standardized procedures, and detailed rules and regulations.

Characteristics of Bureaucracy:

1. Hierarchy

- Clear chain of command within organizations.

2. Specialization

- Division of labor based on expertise

3. Rules and Procedure

- Established guidelines governing operations

4. Impersonality

- Decisions made based on objective criteria, not personal preferences.

5. Formalization

- Extensive documentation of processes and policies.

DECENTRALIZATION

It refers to the transfer of powers, responsibilities, and resources from the central government to **Local Government Units (LGUs)** elected by the people.

TYPES OF DECENTRALIZATION:

ADMINISTRATIVE DECENTRALIZATION

- The national government places the planning and implementation of responsibilities in the hands of local civil servants under the jurisdiction of elected local governments.

POLITICAL DECENTRALIZATION

- It transfers policy and legislative powers from central governments to lower-level assemblies and local councils that have been democratically elected by the people.

FISCAL DECENTRALIZATION

- The government gives the local governments control and management over their finances.

EXAMPLE:

THE MANDANAS RULING IMPLEMENTATION

- This Supreme Court ruling increased the share of national taxes allocated to Local Government Units (LGUs), empowering them with greater financial resources to address local needs.

NEPOTISM

Nepotism refers to the preferential treatment given by those in power to their family and friends, often overlooking more qualified candidates in the hiring process. Such practices extend beyond simply employing a relative; they encompass promotions, raises, and other benefits based on personal ties, not merit.

EXAMPLE OF NEPOTISM:

- **Cebu City Mayor Michael Rama**
 - Rama faced charges of nepotism for hiring his wife's brothers as casual employees at Cebu City Hall.

FORMS OF NEPOTISM:

Political Nepotism

- People in power give important positions to their family members, even if those family members are not qualified for the job.

Organizational Nepotism

- Hiring family members or close relatives within organizations where they are given positions or promotions in a company or organization.

LAW ABOUT NEPOTISM

EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 292 — The Administrative Code of 1987 (Section 59: Nepotism)

- The law prohibits public officials from appointing relatives within certain degrees of kinship to government positions.

POLITICAL DYNASTY

A **Political Dynasty** occurs when a family or clan has multiple members holding political positions, often passing power from one generation to the next. It also refers to powerful families that dominate political offices in a particular area.

Causes of Political Dynasty:

- WEAK POLITICAL PARTY SYSTEM
- VOTER BEHAVIOR
- POWER AND INFLUENCE
- LACK OF STRONG ANTI-DYNASTY LAWS

SUMMARY:

In conclusion, it highlights the challenges and structures within the Philippine Politics. It primarily focuses on the "darker" side of governance—specifically graft, corruption, nepotism, and political dynasty. By defining these terms and providing real-world examples like the Pharnally scandal and the use of confidential funds, our report shows how public power is sometimes misused for personal or familial gain rather than for the public good. It also examines organizational hurdles, such as the rigid rules of bureaucracy, and contrasts them with the concept of decentralization, which aims to empower local government units (LGUs). Finally, it addresses the issue of political dynasties, suggesting that a lack of strong laws and specific voter behaviors allows a few powerful families to maintain a long-term grip on authority. It emphasizes that while government structures like decentralization exist to improve service delivery, important barriers like corruption and nepotism remain.

Neoliberalism

What is neoliberalism?

- "neo" (new)
- "liber" (free/ freedom)

"NEW FREEDOM"

NEOLIBERALISM

A policy model that encompasses both politics and economics and seeks to transfer the control of economic factors from the public sector to the private sector.

A largely unregulated capitalist system that limits restrictions on manufacturing, reduces barriers to commerce, reduces tariffs, and promotes free trade that came up to develop a nation's economy.

THE NEO-LIBERAL TURN

Traces its intellectual roots back to Adam Smith in 1776, it became the dominant global force in the 1980s as a response to a series of capitalist crises:

- The post-war period and the class compromise between capital and labor ("embedded liberalism").
- **Adam Smith**, published a book, '*The Wealth of Nation*' in 1776.
- **1950s- 60s-** rose to success, 1960s embedded liberalism collapsed.
- **1980** - Due to the debt crisis faced, the neo-liberal programmes of restructuring were extended globally to subject their states to establish a discipline of capital markets.

- In response to the capitalist crisis, with its reduced profit rates, it encouraged the corporate groups to revive economic liberalism, which is known as **NEO-LIBERALISM**.

Characteristics of neoliberalism

1. FREE MARKETS

- Belief in the efficiency and self-regulating power of unregulated markets.
- **Neoliberal Move:** By removing these trade barriers, the countries created a "free market" where goods flowed based on supply and demand rather than government protection.

Ex. A US company wanted to sell corn in the Philippines, but they often had to pay high tariffs (taxes).

2. DEREGULATION

- The process of removing or reducing government rules that dictate how businesses must operate. This often targets environmental protections, labor laws, or safety standards.
- **Neoliberal Move:** The government abolished these controls, letting airlines decide their own routes and prices

Ex. The PH government (the Civil Aeronautics Board) controlled which airlines could fly which routes and exactly how much they could charge for a ticket.

3. PRIVATIZATION

- Transferring the ownership of a business, enterprise, or public service from the government to the private sector (private companies).
- **Neoliberal Move:** The government abolished these controls, letting private sectors like Maynilad Water Services have control over the water system.

Ex. In the PH, the entire water system used to be owned and operated by the government as MWSS (Metropolitan Waterworks and Sewerage System).

4. FISCAL AUSTERITY

- The government makes deep cuts to public spending (schools, hospitals, welfare) to reduce national debt and keep taxes low.
- **Neoliberal Move:** The PH government drastically cut the minimum wage, slashed pensions by up to 20%, and laid off thousands of public healthcare and education workers to "balance the books."
- The Philippines was in massive debt. To get "**bailout**" loans from the IMF and European Central Bank, they were forced to adopt "austerity."

5. INDIVIDUALISM

- A social shift that emphasizes personal responsibility over collective good.
- **Neo-liberal move:** The worker is responsible for finding a new job every five months. They don't get the collective "safety net" of health insurance

(PhilHealth), SSS, or retirement pay provided by an employer

- Ex. Many large malls and fast-food chains use "5-5-5" contracts (hiring workers for only five months so they don't become "regular" employees).

INSTITUTIONS ESTABLISHED UNDER NEOLIBERALISM

1. INTERNATIONAL MONETARY FUND (IMF)

- An organization of 191 countries working to foster global monetary cooperation, secure financial stability, facilitate international trade, and reduce poverty.

2. WORLD BANK

- An international organization that provides financing, policy advice, and technical assistance to developing countries to reduce poverty and boost shared prosperity.

3. WORLD TRADE ORGANIZATION

- The only international body governing the rules of trade between nations, which negotiates trade agreements, settles disputes, and lowers trade barriers to facilitate global commerce.

4. GATT 1947: GENERAL AGREEMENT ON TARIFFS AND TRADE

- A multilateral treaty signed in 1947 by 23 nations to promote international trade by reducing tariffs, quotas, and subsidies.

CHANGE IN SOCIETY

CHANGES IN THE LABOR MARKET

- The rise of precarious employment, including part-time, contract, and gig work, has become more prevalent. The weakening of labor unions has reduced worker bargaining power.

PRIVATIONAL PUBLIC SERVICES

- Essential services like healthcare, education, and utilities have increasingly been privatized, potentially leading to reduced access and higher costs for some.

INCREASE ECONOMIC INEQUALITY

- A core consequence is the widening gap between the rich and the poor. Deregulation and tax cuts for the wealthy have concentrated wealth, while reduced social spending has weakened safety nets.

SHIFT IN SOCIAL VALUES

- Neoliberalism emphasizes individualism and consumerism, potentially leading to a decline in social solidarity and community cohesion. There is an increased emphasis on individual responsibility, sometimes to the detriment of social responsibility.

RISE OF THE CONSUMER CULTURE

- A large emphasis on consumerism and the accumulation of goods has become more prevalent within society.

INCREASED IN FINANCIALIZATION

- The financial sector has gained significant power, influencing economic and social policies. This can lead to increased financial instability.

COMMODIFICATION OF SOCIAL LIFE

- More aspects of life are treated as commodities, with a focus on market-based solutions to social problems.

WEAKENING WELFARE STATE

- Cuts to social programs have reduced the state's role in providing social safety nets, leaving individuals more vulnerable to economic shocks.

SUMMARY:

Neoliberalism is a policy model that moves economic control from the **public sector (government)** to the **private sector (corporations/individuals)**. Born from Adam Smith's ideas, it gained dominance in the 1980s via "**Reaganomics**" and **Thatcherism** to solve the economic stagnation of the 1970s. It operates through five levers: Free Trade (removing borders), Deregulation (removing rules), Privatization (selling public assets), Austerity (cutting social spending), and Individualism (self-reliance).

CONCLUSIONS:

The "Marketization" of Everything: Neoliberalism isn't just about stocks and bonds; it's a mindset that treats social services (education, health, prisons) as commodities to be bought and sold.

There is a profound shift from social rights (the state owes you a safety net) to individual responsibility (you owe it to yourself to succeed). This is due to the reason that economics cannot be separated from politics.

While neoliberalism focuses on "**efficiency**" and "**balancing the books**," it often ignores the human cost. It has failed to bring third world countries out of poverty and has also resulted to causing more injuries to the poor.

GLOBALIZATION

WHAT IS GLOBALIZATION?

- **Globalization** is the process by which countries around the world become connected and interdependent. This connection happens through trade, communication, technology, culture, and the movement of people.
- **Globalization** derives from the word globalize, which refers to the emergence of an international network of economic systems.

TYPES OF GLOBALIZATION:

1. Economic Globalization

- Economic globalization refers to the increasing integration of national economies through international trade, investment, and production. It allows goods, services, and labor to move more easily across borders.

2. Cultural Globalization

- Cultural globalization is the spread and exchange of beliefs, values, traditions, and lifestyles among different societies. It promotes cultural interaction but may also influence local cultures.

3. Political Globalization

- Political globalization involves the growing cooperation of governments through international

organizations and agreements. It helps countries address global issues such as peace, security, and human rights.

4. Technological Globalization

- Technological globalization is the worldwide sharing and use of technological innovations and digital systems. It improves communication, transportation, and access to information across countries.

5. Social Globalization

- Social globalization refers to the increased interaction and connection among people from different nations. It strengthens global relationships through migration, education, and social media.

6. Military Globalization

- Military globalization is the cooperation among countries in defense, security, and peacekeeping efforts. It includes joint training, alliances, and international military operations.

7. Geographical/Environmental Globalization

- Environmental globalization refers to the global cooperation to address environmental problems that affect multiple countries. It focuses on shared responsibility for climate change, pollution, and natural resource protection.

8. Financial Globalization

- Financial globalization is the integration of global financial markets and banking systems. It allows capital, investments, and money to flow more freely between countries.

ADVANTAGES & DISADVANTAGES OF GLOBALIZATION

- It helps countries grow economically
- Creates job opportunities
- Improves access to products and services
- Promotes cultural understanding
- It also allows countries to share technology and knowledge.
- Access to a wider variety of foods
- More education opportunities for people in developing countries
- Scientific research carried out by a larger community of people
- More international cooperation regarding controlling global warming
- Lowering production costs of products
- It can increase inequality between rich and poor countries
- Weaken local cultures
- Harm the environment
- Causes job losses when companies move to cheaper labor markets.
- Cybercrime
- Terrorism
- Pollution of the oceans
- Migration of refugees
- Human trafficking

RELEVANCE IN SOCIAL WORK

Globalization is important in social work because it connects people, communities, and social concerns across borders, making social problems no longer limited to a single location. Social workers increasingly deal with global issues like migration, poverty, human trafficking, climate change, and

mental health, which necessitate international collaboration and culturally appropriate approaches. It also teaches social workers about worldwide best practices, policies, and strategies for improving service delivery and advocating for disadvantaged populations. Globalization makes social work more inclusive, responsive, and effective at promoting human rights and social justice around the world.

CONCLUSION:

In conclusion, globalization is a powerful process that connects the world. While it offers many opportunities, it also brings challenges that must be managed carefully. It affects people's lives in both positive and negative ways. Understanding globalization helps us become more aware and responsible global citizens. As future social workers, this understanding enables us to advocate for social justice, protect vulnerable groups, and promote inclusive and sustainable development in a globally connected world.

Implications to Social Work Practice in terms of Policies, Programs, and Services Overview

In the Philippines, social work has shifted from traditional government-led welfare to more market-driven and competitive systems due to neoliberalism and globalization. Understanding this shift helps social workers respond to international issues while ensuring that local cultural values and community-specific needs remain the heart of their practice.

Neoliberalism

- A policy model that emphasizes the value of free-market competition, often characterized by privatization, deregulation, and reduced government spending.

Policy Implications

- **Privatization and Marketization:** Social services, once primarily managed by the government, are increasingly handled by private and non-profit organizations. While this can expand service options, it may also create fragmentation and shift focus toward profit rather than people's needs.
- **Reduced Government Spending:** Austerity measures and budget cuts limit funding for social welfare programs, weakening the quality, accessibility, and overall reach of services for vulnerable populations.
- **Managerialism and Accountability:** The growing emphasis on measurable outcomes and performance metrics often pushes social workers to prioritize paperwork and data reporting, reducing time for meaningful, client-centered practice.

Example:

Republic Act No. 7160 (Local Government Code of 1991)

- **The Concept:** This law decentralized social services by transferring responsibility from the national government to local government units (LGUs).
- **How it works:** This policy transferred the delivery of basic social services from the national DSWD to Local Government Units (LGUs) like cities and municipalities.

- **The Neoliberal Impact:** It reduces the national budget's burden.
- However, it creates "**fragmented**" welfare—meaning the help a client gets depends on whether their specific Mayor has allocated enough budget, rather than a guaranteed national standard.

Program Implications

Individualistic Approach

- Programs often emphasize "**self-sufficiency**" and individual behavior change. This focus tends to neglect the macro-economic and structural roots of poverty, such as lack of land reform or systemic inequality.

Focus on Efficiency and Cost-Effectiveness

- Program success is often measured by how "cost-effective" it is rather than its long-term social impact. This often results in short-term "band-aid" solutions that fail to address complex, multi-generational social issues.

EXAMPLE:

Pantawid Pamilyang Pilipino Program (4Ps)

- **The Concept:** Conditionality & Individual Responsibility.
- **How it works:** This is a "**Conditional Cash Transfer**" program. Families receive money only if they meet requirements like 85% school attendance and regular health check-ups.
- **The Neoliberal Impact:** It treats poverty as a lack of "**human capital**." Instead of the state simply providing support as a right, the program places the burden on the individual to change their behavior to "earn" the assistance.

Services Implications:

Commodification of Services

- Essential services like healthcare and education are increasingly treated as market goods rather than basic rights. When access depends on the ability to pay or meet strict financial criteria, marginalized groups—especially the poor—face greater barriers to receiving the support they need.

Limited and Fragmented Access

- As state funding decreases and services shift to NGOs or private providers, access becomes uneven. Support may vary by location, creating a "lottery of care," where rural or low-income areas receive fewer services because they are not seen as financially sustainable.

Example:

Accredited NGO Managed Centers

- **The Concept:** Privatization & Outsourcing.
- **How it works:** For services like shelters for abused women or children, the government often doesn't build its own facilities. Instead, it pays private NGOs to run the centers and provide the care.
- **The Neoliberal Impact:** The government becomes a "**contractor**" rather than a "**provider**." While this can be efficient, it turns social service into a market where

NGOs must compete for government funding, often leading to a focus on "numbers" and "quotas" rather than deep, long-term healing.

CONCLUSION:

Ultimately, neoliberalism has transformed social work from a state-led mission of social justice into a market-driven system of "management." By prioritizing privatization, individual responsibility, and cost-efficiency, modern policies and programs often treat poverty as a personal failure rather than a systemic issue. As social workers, our challenge is to navigate this "efficiency-first" landscape without losing our "people-first" core—ensuring that the drive for a better economy never replaces our duty to protect human dignity and social equity.

Globalization

- The increasing interdependence and integration of markets, cultures, and societies through the movement of capital, goods, and people.
- Understanding globalization in social work is essential to ensure ethical, culturally competent, and socially just interventions that address both local and global dimensions of social issues.
- Globalization shapes social work policies and service delivery by influencing human rights laws, migration and labor policies, funding systems, and the use of technology, requiring culturally responsive and globally informed practice to support vulnerable populations.

Policy Implications

Migrant and OFW Welfare

- The establishment of the Department of Migrant Workers (DMW) shows the government's policy response to the increasing number of migrants, especially women, by ensuring social protection for Filipinos who work abroad.

Example: R.A. 8042 or the Migrant Workers and Overseas Filipinos Act of 1995

Anti-Trafficking Policy

- In the Philippines, anti-trafficking policies aim to safeguard vulnerable individuals, especially women and children, from abuse and exploitation, both locally and abroad.

Example: The Republic Act No. 9208 or the Anti-Trafficking in Persons Act of 2003

Program Implications

Poverty Reduction Program

- Because global economic crises increase poverty, there's a program that monitors compliance, conducts family development sessions, and assesses beneficiaries.

Example: Pantawid Pamilyang Pilipino Program (4Ps)

International Field Placements

- Educational exchange opportunities where social work students practice in foreign settings.

Example: Through partnerships between the DSWD, PASWI, and UNICEF, students can access specialized training and overseas learning opportunities.

Services Implications Migrant Workers

R.A 8042: Migrants Workers and Overseas Filipino Act of 1995

- Social services specifically designed to assist individuals working outside their home country and their families.

Example: The Overseas Workers Welfare Administration (OWWA) offers social programs specifically designed for OFWs and their families.

Cultural Diversity

- Globalization brings foreigners, mixed families, and diverse cultures. Social workers must practice cultural competence and avoid discrimination.

Example: The Republic Act No. 8371 or Indigenous Peoples' Rights Act (IPRA)

Conclusion:

As the world becomes more interconnected through globalization, social work must adopt culturally competent, ethical, and globally responsive practices. International collaboration, inclusive programs, and policies are essential to support vulnerable populations and promote social justice, human rights, and equitable development in a rapidly changing world.

THE STRUGGLES OF VARIOUS SECTORS IN THE PHILIPPINES INTRODUCTION

The struggles of women, children, and youth in the Philippines show the need for strong social work intervention. Despite progress in education and gender equality, many still face violence, poverty, and limited access to basic services. In this context, social work plays a role in protecting vulnerable groups, promoting human rights, and advancing social justice toward inclusive and sustainable national development.

1. WOMEN

- This sector includes females from different backgrounds, such as mothers, workers, students, indigenous individuals, and those in marginalized communities, who face challenges such as inequality, poverty, discrimination, limited access to education and health services, leading to shared experiences of social disadvantage.

GLOBAL GENDER GAP REPORT (2024)

- The Global Gender Gap score in 2024 for all 146 countries included in this edition stands at 68.5% (previously 68.4%)
- In the 2024 Global Gender Gap Index, the Philippines ranked 25th out of 146 countries, with a gender parity score of 77.9%, a slight decrease from its 2023 score of 79.1%

GLOBAL GENDER GAP

- The Gender Gap is narrowing, but the collective rate of progress has slowed down. Without a bold push forward, it will take **134 years** to reach full parity

SOCIALLY DISADVANTAGED WOMEN

- Socially disadvantaged women include women who are victims of gender-based violence, prostituted women, victims of trafficking or illegal recruitment, victims of armed conflict and militarization, and solo parents.

CHALLENGES FACED BY WOMEN

GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE

- Refers to harmful acts directed at women because of their gender. This includes abuse such as domestic violence, marital rape, incest rape, and sexual harassment, which harm women physically, emotionally, and mentally, and are often underreported due to fear and stigma.

PROSTITUTION

- Refers to those women who are pushed into selling sexual services, often because of poverty, lack of education, trafficking, health risks, and limited job opportunities, showing they are often victims of exploitation rather than choice.

Social services, a key focus of social workers, involve helping women individually or in groups with:

Pre-orientation of their values and attitudes

- Helping women build confidence and positive self-worth.

Working with their families

- Supporting families to understand and help the woman.

Mobilizing Community Resources

- Connecting them to local help, like clinics and training programs.

Temporary Shelter and Essential Life Services

- Providing a safe place and basic needs like food and care.

Job Placement

- Assisting women in finding work to support themselves.

Community Education

- Helps people accept and support disadvantaged women.

Rehabilitation Programs

- Help women gain skills and prepare for jobs so they can be independent.

2. CHILDREN

- Individuals under 18 who face challenges like poverty, neglect, exploitation, lack of education, and limited health care, including street children, those in conflict with the law, and children from marginalized communities who are vulnerable to hardships affecting their growth and well-being.

CHILD WELFARE

- The field of Child Welfare focuses on the physical, social, and psychological well-being of children and youth. It involves various programs and services for care, protection, and rehabilitation, especially in difficult situations.

Children Living in Poverty

- Children whose families cannot provide basic needs like food, shelter, and schooling.

Children Lacking Parental Care and Supervision

- Children who do not receive proper guidance, protection, and support from parents or guardians.

Children Exposed to Exploitation and Abuse

- Children who are harmed, neglected, or used by others for labor, money, or other purposes.

STREET CHILDREN AND DRUG TRADE

- Street children are often exposed to violence, exploitation, and drug trade.
- They become vulnerable to recruitment by criminal syndicates.
- Programs such as street education, rescue operations, and rehabilitation are essential.

CURRENT CHALLENGES IN CHILD WELFARE:

Street Children Involvement in the Drug Trade

- Some street children are recruited or forced to sell, carry, or use illegal drugs.

Increasing Number of CICL cases

- More minors are being involved in crimes and entering the juvenile justice system.

Need for more Social Workers and Funding

- More trained helpers and budget are needed to protect, guide, and rehabilitate these children.

CHILDREN IN CONFLICT WITH THE LAW (CICL)

- Refers to minors aged below 18 who commit offenses.
- Governed by Republic Act No. 9344 (Juvenile Justice and Welfare Act of 2006).
- Diversion programs are preferred over punishment to rehabilitate and reintegrate CICL into society.

LEGAL FRAMEWORK

INTERNATIONAL LAW

- **(United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child 1989)**
- Protects children from economic exploitation, harmful work, sexual abuse, and violence. **Ensures children are not separated from their families against their will.**

PHILIPPINE LAW

- **Republic Act No. 7610 (1992)**
- Provides special protection against child abuse, exploitation, and discrimination.
- Defines a child as anyone below 18 years old or someone over 18 who cannot protect themselves due to a disability or condition.

ROLES OF SOCIAL WORKERS IN CHILD WELFARE

- **Investigation and Assessment** - Check reports of child abuse and decide if the child needs protection.
- **Case Management and Planning** - Make safety plans, arrange care, and support adoption.

- **Family Preservation and Support** - Help families with counseling, classes, or aid to keep children safe at home.
- **Legal Advocacy** - Represent the child's best interest in court and work with the legal system.
- **School-Based Support** - Work with schools to help children facing abuse, neglect, or behavior problems.
- **Community Education** - Raise awareness about child protection, teach parenting skills, and provide resources to prevent abuse and neglect.
- **Counseling and Emotional Support** - Provide therapy, emotional guidance, and coping strategies for children and families affected by maltreatment.

ALTERNATIVE CHILD CARE SERVICES

1. **Adoption** - Establishes legal parent-child ties
 2. **Legal Guardianship** - Provides a legal guardian until the child reaches adulthood.
 3. **Foster Care (R.A. No. 10165, 2013)** - Temporary care by licensed foster families.
 4. **Residential/Institutional Care** - 24-hour group care when family placement is not an option.
3. **YOUTH**
- Refers to individuals aged 15–30 who experience social and economic challenges such as poverty, limited access to education, unemployment, protection, and opportunities for empowerment and full participation in society.

THE YOUTH SECTOR

- To support youth development, it's important to understand their challenges, such as poverty, abuse, and societal pressures, and provide programs that help them grow and succeed for a better future.

Factors contributing to youth's educational difficulties:

- **Poverty** - Many youth cannot focus on school because their families struggle to meet basic needs.
- **Education Inequality** - Some students have fewer opportunities than others, especially in poor or rural areas
- **Curriculum Overload** - Too many lessons at once make learning stressful and confusing.
- **Lack of Access to Quality Education** - Some schools do not have enough books and proper classrooms.

ROLES OF SOCIAL WORKERS IN YOUTH'S EDUCATION

- **Counseling and Emotional Support** - helping students manage stress, trauma, and personal challenges.
- **Behavioral Issues** - assisting with discipline and promoting positive behavior strategies.
- **Safe School Environment** - addressing bullying, violence, and discrimination.
- **Career and Life Skills Guidance** - assisting students in career exploration and essential skill.
- **Advocacy** - ensuring students receive necessary support and accommodations.

EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS

- **Open High School Program (OHSP)** - a DEPED program that offers distance learning for high school students who cannot attend regular school.
- **Special Education (SPED)** - provides education tailored for learners with disabilities.
- **Indigenous Peoples Education (IPED)** - ensures culturally responsive education for indigenous communities.

4. TEENAGE PREGNANCY

- Teenage pregnancy remains a pressing issue in the Philippines, affecting the health, education, and socio-economic status of young mothers aged 15–19. According to the Commission on Population and Development (POPCOM), the country has one of the highest teenage pregnancy rates in Southeast Asia.

ROLES OF SOCIAL WORKERS IN TEENAGE PREGNANCY:

- **Counseling and Emotional Support** – Providing guidance, listening, and emotional care to help young mothers cope with stress, fear, or anxiety.
- **Health and Prenatal Care Advocacy** – Ensuring pregnant teens receive proper medical check-ups, nutrition advice, and care for a healthy pregnancy.
- **Education Support** – Helping young mothers continue their schooling through tutoring, flexible schedules, or scholarships.
- **Sex Education and Prevention Programs** – Teaching about reproductive health, safe sex, and ways to prevent teenage pregnancy.
- **Access to Social Services** – Connecting teens with government or community programs for financial aid, housing, counseling, or other needed support.

PROGRAMS AND SERVICES

- **ProtectTEEN Program (Philippines)** - a DSWD initiative providing psychosocial support, family case management, education assistance, and livelihood support to teenage mothers, their partners, and families.
- **Mobile Health Facilities (TrucKABATAAN)** - is a mobile adolescent-friendly health facility designed to deliver essential medical services directly to young people in rural communities.

CONCLUSION:

The struggles of women, children, and youth in the Philippines, such as violence, poverty, child abuse, limited education, and teenage pregnancy, show that many still lack safety and opportunities. Social workers protect rights, support families, and connect communities to education, health, and livelihood services. Through advocacy and empowerment, they address root causes and help build a just, inclusive society. As the saying goes, "The true measure of any society is how it treats its most vulnerable members," and through social work, the Philippines moves closer to becoming a fairer and more caring nation for all.